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INSIDE—AN ALL-NEW BLACK KNIGHT STRIP!

Stan Lee
presents

EVERY THURSDAY

10p

HULK

COMIC

No. 43
DEC 26
1979

**BAH!
ALL PUNY
HUMANS FEAR
HULK!**

**...UH-UH! NOT ALL—
BETTER LOOK BEHIND
YOU, GREENSKIN!**



ENTER A NEW PERIL—THE EVIL GENIUS, GOLDBUG!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK



VICTIM OF GAMMA RADIATION
BRUCE BANNER NOW FINDS
HIMSELF TRANSFORMED IN TIMES
OF STRESS INTO THE MOST POWERFUL
CREATURE EVER TO WALK THE
EARTH!

...FOR A HASTILY ASSEMBLED
PLATFORM OF SOLDIERS FROM
FORT LEVENWORTH, KANSAS

WHY, OF ALL THE MOUNTAINS
IN THE BLACK HILLS, DID
THE HULK HAVE TO FALL
ALLEGORICAL MOUNT
RUSHMORE?



SIR! INCOMING
MISSILE FROM THE
HULKBUSTER ATTACK
SQUAD!

EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF
MENTAL BEINGS, EVENTUALLY
GROWS WEARY. SUCH IS THE
CASE WITH THE EVER-
MISUSED HULK, WHO HAS
CHOSEN A CERTAIN
MOUNTAIN IN THE
BLACK HILLS AS HIS PLACE OF SLEEPER.

STERN & BUSCEMA/ESPOSITO

AND THEREIN
LIES THE NIGHTMARE.

IT'S ABOUT TIME! GIVE ME
THAT HANDSET, SOLDIER!

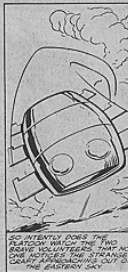
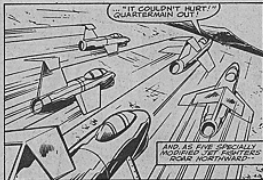


YES, SIR?

HULK COMIC Number 43

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Edited & designed by Dez Skinn Publisher: Stan Lee



WELL, SORRY, BOYS-- BUT THE HULK IS TOO IMPORTANT TO MY PLANS FOR ME TO LET YOU USE THAT GUN.



OUT OF THE BAZARRE, FLYING SHIP, RELEASES A LOW INTENSITY LASER BLAST, SLIDING ACROSS THE INTERVENING MILES.



...TO ITS SLUMBERING TARGET.



THE BEAM OF COHERENT LIGHT IS WEAK, BUT HAS THE DESIRED EFFECT.



ITS STING AWAKENS THE HULK!

FOR A MOMENT, HIS TIRED EYES SEE NOTHING BUT THE BLURRED AFTER-IMAGES OF SLEEP. THEN THEY WIDEN AND FOCUS.



AND THE HULK DOESN'T LIKE WHAT HE SEES.



SOLDIERS! EVEN HERE SOLDIERS FOLLOW THE HULK!



HULK JUST WANTED TO SLEEP BUT IF SOLDIERS WANT TO FIGHT, THEN THE HULK WILL GIVE THEM A FIGHT.



CAN YOU SEE HIM YET?



NOT YET AND HOLD IT DOWN WILL YA? IF HE WALKS UP OUR JOOSE IS



LOOKED



WELL, LITTLE MEN-- HULK IS NOT SLEEPING NOW!

WH-WHAT DO WE DO NOW? WE'RE NOT SURPRISED TO PROVOKE HIM!



HE'S ALREADY PROMISED TO SHOOT JAR-IM!



TURNING, THE JADE BEHEMOTH INSTANTLY GUESSED THE SOLDIER'S INTENT, BUT BEFORE HE COULD THEY CAN REACT.



HULK WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THEM?

I HAVE PUNISHED THEM FOR THEIR TREACHERY. HULK, THEY WON'T BOTHER YOU EVER AGAIN.



BUT THERE ARE OTHERS COMING WHO WILL BE HAPPIER TO BEAT LISTEN!

EHE



ROSS PLANES? BUT ROSS WAS KILLING WHO?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO SENT THEM, HULK! THEY'RE COMING TO CAPTURE YOU!



COME WITH ME AND WE WILL FIGHT THEM FROM THE AIR!



YES... YES... WE MUST FIGHT! HULK WILL DO IT!



THEN COME ABOARD MY FRIEND! UNH?

WITH THAT, A VORTEX BEAM STABS DOWN, DROPPING THE STARTLED HULK UP INTO THE OLD SHIP AND AS HE RISES, THE BEHEMOTH TAKES A LAST FLEETING LOOK...



...AT THE GOLD-PLATED STAIRS THAT ONCE WERE MEN.



NO, NO! I AM THE GOLDBUG HULK, AND THIS... THIS MIGHT SAY IT'S MY HOME IN THE SKY. IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG, HULK.



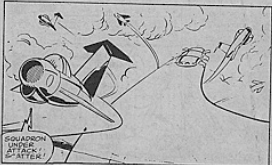
HERE? HULK DOES NOT UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS.



AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PLANES ARE TOO MANY, AND THEY'RE CLOSING ON US TOO FAST. ALONG AS THEY'RE IN FORMATION, WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE, SO...

YOU SAID WE WOULD FIGHT PLANES... NOW CAN HULK DO THAT IN HERE?

IT WILL ALL BECOME CLEAR IN TIME, HULK. BUT FOR NOW WE MUST HURRY.



SQUADRON UNDER ATTACK! ATTACK!

ISH! THIS IS NOT FIGHTING! HULK WANTS TO GO OUT AND SMASH PLANES!



HOW LONG WILL THIS PARTNERSHIP LAST? FIND OUT AS HULK SETS OFF FOR EL DORADO!



MARVEL

BULLPEN BULLETINS



SEZ DEZ

With the first year of the Marvel Revolution now completed, perhaps it would be an ideal time to introduce you all to our revolutionaries... the bunch of bewildered, bogged-down bozos who make up the bashful British bullpen!

Long-time partner in peril Alan McKenzie has (foolishly?) been with me for more years than he wants to remember, through our involvement with such diversities as MAD Magazine and House of Hammer, plus others we prefer not to remember so well!

He is now associate editor of our mighty Marvel monthlies: Starburst, Conan, Marvel Superheroes and Rampage.

The art-side of our three action-packed comic strip monthlies (that being the in-house art side of spraying, sizing and generally sticking together!) is handled by Steve Mackney, while Paul Harwood - in flight from our old friends, the Internal Plumbing Company - handles the layout of our SF monthly, Starburst.

Doctor Who Weekly, our latest landmark has its features assembled by Nigel Money and Susanna Shannon-Smith, and the proof-reading and general editorial chores are in the hands of Jenny O'Connor, with an assist from consultant Jeremy Bentham.

Gilly Firmin is our mail order/secretary!

ITEM: Regular readers of our chart-topping SF mag, Star Wars Weekly, will remember our fantastic fiftieth issue celebration, with its special feature and photo-filled content.

Well, have you realised what's coming up soon...? Our *HUNDREDDTH* issue!

And if you think that means we're dreaming up something special for it, take a well-deserved pat on the back, because you're right!

If you thought our 50th issue was really something special, just hang on in there, 'cos you just won't believe what's coming in our hundredth!

ITEM: We're beginning to worry about our production coordinator, jeopardised John Kelly. It all started when he went to a special party being held for Time Out - the weekly London magazine. Apparently, at

reception girl Friday, while Nigel Balloch looks after all our various competition post, plus despatch, filing and a multitude of other problems.

Spider-Man Weekly's art assistance is in the capable hands of long-time Marvel-lady Elitta Fell, while Annie Halfacre handles similar chores on Hulk Comic.

Graham de Lucy has the enviable task of keeping both ladies in check, and seeing to the re-lettering, tidying, and cover chores on our weeklies.

Paul Neary, as well as producing cover art and various strips, is our group art editor. On his shoulders falls the responsibility of training new finished artists.

John Kelly is our jeopardised production coordinator, who somehow tries to keep all 700 or so pages on time each month, and Danny Fingerth is our New York based liaison man, who keeps us in touch with what's happening Stateside.

Which leaves out only our magnificent full-colour annuals, which are editorially produced by John Barreclough and Nigel Money.

And that's only our editorial and art bods on the production side! Whew!

Now that you know I don't really do everything single-handed, maybe I better tell you soon what I handle, before you start thinking I only write these columns!

But that can wait until next time!

Best wishes,

Des Skinn
Des Skinn/Editor.

about 1.00 am, he joined in the dancing... on roller skates!

Ever since then he's been turning up at the office wearing a white suit, black open-neck shirt, about 15 medallions, and zooming around the office on wheels, with a cry of "Staying alive"!

So far, no one's been able to catch him, but we're working on it.

ITEM: You know how we're often telling you about the importance of your letters, so we know from you whether we're doing something right? Well, since the launch of our latest, Doctor Who Weekly, we've been getting so many letters that the post office hasn't been able to cope!

The first step they took to make it physically possible to deliver the vast quantities of

your letter, was to increase our deliveries to three times a day.

But even that proved too much, so poor old Nigel Balloch now has to pick up part of our first delivery from the sorting office!

ITEM: And if you feel sorry for Nigel having to heave a sackful of mail every morning, what about our leader-man Dez?

...No, it's not that our erudite editor also has to carry the mail in. Rather it's the hours he has to keep reading everything.

That's right! Despite the fact that we had over a thousand letters about Doctor Who Weekly alone, in its first ten days, Dez reads all your letters before passing them round the bullpen with scribbled notes, "Let's do it!", "— he's right. How did that happen!" and so on.

Most nights now, Dez can be seen leaving the office with bulging bags full of your ideas and comments, only to return following days with bulging eyeballs, oft inspired, sometimes relieved with your reaction, and rarely... very rarely... looking dejected.

But keep them coming, he loves reading them really! (Just don't tell him we said so!).

ITEM: Continuing our popular feature section of Marvel Superheroes, and following the interview with X-Men author Chris Claremont in issue 355, and the Comiccon piece in 356, we've the whackiest interview ever, across issues 357 and 358!

"The Wonderful World of Marvel" will feature the inside secrets and opinions of... JARVIS, Butler to Tony Stark and the mighty Avengers! No kiddin'!

ITEM: Of all your letters - outside of the Dr Who avalanche - one of the most asked questions concerns our green-skinned tv star, the Incredible Hulk. Though the actual things you ask are all slightly different, they all add up to the same... who (if anybody) is as strong as the Hulk?

Well, rather than risk the wrath of fans of The Thing, Thor, Iron Man, Silver Surfer and all the other top-stars at Marvel, we've come up with a great way of answering your queries in a great new feature to be appearing soon within the pages of Hulk Comic.

The title should tell the tale... "Hulk's Greatest Battles". And it will be starting up soon in Green-skinn's own weekly, keep your eyes peeled for further bulletins.

Actually, one of the guys wanted to call the feature "Hulk's Greatest Hits", but we kinda felt that sounded silly!

IN OTHERWORLD, CAPTAIN BRITAIN TELLS HIS TALE TO MERLYN AND...

THE BLACK KNIGHT

DARK FORCES ATTACK THE PLANE AS IT SPEEDS OVER THE FAST COLD ATLANTIC. "SUDDENLY I FIND STRENGTH-- I SCREAM AT THE EVIL THAT PURSUES ME."



PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR SEAT... I MUST... UNGHH!

GET OUT OF MY WAY!!



HE'S GONE MAD! HE'S OPENED THE HATCH!!



"ABANDONING MYSELF TO FATE, I PLUNGE INTO SPACE-- LEAVING THE STRICKEN CRAFT BEHIND, WITH THE HOPE IT MAY REACH THE MAINLAND IN SAFETY--"



I HIT THE WATER FROM A GREAT HEIGHT-- PLUNGING DEEP INTO THE PERILING WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC...

THE BREATH IS KNOCKED FROM MY BODY!!



"BUT I MANAGE TO INFLATE MY LIFE JACKET-- AND RISE QUICKLY TO THE SURFACE!"

"AND THERE I DRIFT HELPLESSLY FOR HOURS AFTER HOUR, MY BODY NUMB WITH COLD--"

AND MY MIND LOST IN DELIRIUM



"AND WHERE THE SURF BREAKS UPON THE BEACH, I COME TO REST-- EXHAUSTED-- NEARER TO DEATH THAN LIFE--"



"UNTIL I COME WITHIN SIGHT OF AN ISLAND, BARELY DISCERNABLE IN THE DARKNESS--"



"THEN A VOICE FILLS MY MIND -- BIDDING ME TO
ARISE -- TO CAST OFF MY WEARINESS --"

"I STRUGGLE, AND SOMEHOW
FIND THE STRENGTH--"

"I PUSH ON INLAND -- BLINDLY FOLLOWING
THE ALL-PERVADING VOICE -- FOR IT
SOUNDS LIKE A VOICE I CAN TRUST --
FULL OF POWER AND PURPOSE --"

A STEEP HILL RISES BEFORE ME --
BUT PRESENTS NO OBSTACLE --

"WHEN I REACH THE TOP
I AM SEIZED BY A
FEELING OF AWE --
FOR BEFORE ME STAND
THREE HUGE STONES
-- MONUMENTS TO A
BYGONE AGE,
GLIMMERING DARKLY
AGAINST THE GLOW OF
DAWN --"

"THEN DAWN BREAKS INTO **SUNRISE** -- THE SUN
CLIMBS ABOVE THE HORIZON WITH SUDDEEN
DIZZILING BRILLIANCE --"

THE SCENE IS
ETCHED
INTO MY BRAIN
-- ENGRAINED
THERE FOREVER! --

BUT THE GLORY OF THAT
SCENE WAS SOON FORGOTTEN --
-- DARKNESS ENTERED MY
MIND AGAIN, AND I STRUGGLED
WITH THE VOICE --

I WAS BEING
TORN APART
-- THE SUN WAS
TOO GREAT AND
I PASSED
OUT --

"WHEN I CAME TO -- I FOUND
MYSELF WASHED UP ON THE
MAINLAND -- IN THE FULL
LIGHT OF DAY, THE VISION
FAST RECEIVING LIKE A
FORGOTTEN DREAM --"

AND MY MIND
EMPTY OF
THOUGHTS --

YOU SURMISE CORRECTLY!
INDEED, A **TITANIC**
STRUGGLE TOOK PLACE
TWO GREAT POWERS
FOUGHT FOR YOUR
SOUL --

AND I BELIEVE THE
POWER OF GOOD WAS NOT
ALTOGETHER DEFEATED --
FOR SOMETHING CAUSED
YOU TO LEAD FROM
THE SKY-CRAFT --

THUS ENABLING YOU
TO ORBIT IN THE TIDE,
AND MAKE LANDFALL
ON THAT VERY
ISLAND --

NOW I MUST INTERPRET
YOUR VISION CORRECTLY,
FOR IT SEEMS YOU
HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY
A GREAT AND
POWERFUL
FORCE --

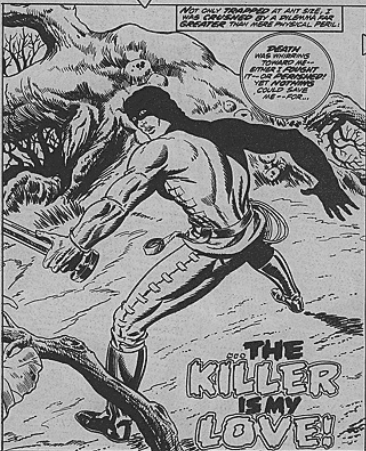
BY THE SPIRIT OF
KING ARTHUR
HIMSELF!!

TO BE CONTINUED.

NEXT: THE MYSTERY DEEPENS AND THE QUEST IS REVEALED!

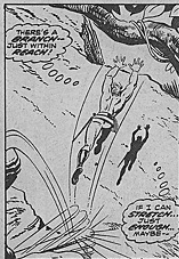
THE WASP TURNED KILLER! AND HER VICTIM...

ANT-MAN!





...YET SUDDENLY SHE WAVERED, AS IF THE CHEMICALS WHICH CHANGED HER WERE CHANGING INTO A NEW PATTERN. I SAW MY CHANCE...







MEPHISTO'S POWER THREATENS THE FREEDOM OF THE...



MEPHISTO HAS KIDNAPPED SHALLA-BAL, HOLDING HER CAPTIVE. HE PLANS TO FORCE THE SURFER TO OBEY HIS EVIL COMMANDS...



TREAT THE FEMALE GENTLY, NOBIL ONES?

SHE IS NOT YET TRULY MINE!

THUS, WE SHALL BE HOSPITABLE--

TILL SHE NO LONGER SERVES MY PURPOSE!

LEE+J. BURCEMAN/SINNOT



SINCE ALL ETERNITY IS EVER AIN--

MEPHISTO DOES NOT ACT IN WASTE!

BUT, MERELY SLAYING THE SILVER SURFER IS NOT ENOUGH!

HE, OF ALL MEN, IS TOO GREAT A PRIZE!



WHILE THE HELPLESS FEMALE IS MY CAPTIVE, IT IS I WHO CALL THE TUNE!



WE MUST BE CONQUERED-- MADE TO SERVE ME-- HERE IN MY REALM FOREVER!



NOW, AWAY WITH HER!!

MEPHISTO WOULD MEDITATE!



NOT FOREVER!

NOT A DAY--AN HOUR--OR MINUTE, MOST EVIL ONE!

YOU!



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH SHALLA-BAL?

SHOULD ANY HARM BEFALL HER-- I VOW--

STILL YOUR TONGUE!
NONE MAY THREATEN THE DANCING OF DARKNESS!

HERE WITHIN ANY DREAD DOMAIN, IT IS I WHO ASK-- IT IS YOU WHO ANSWER!

AND SO, I NOW DEMAND--

NOW DID YOU FIND THIS STYRIAN SPHERE??

THOUGH YOURS IS A POWER BEYOND ALL KEN--

THERE ARE POWERS AT MY COMMAND, AS WELL!



POWERS YOU SCARCELY SUSPECTED AS WE STOOD UPON THE MOUNTAIN--

THE SILVER SURFER MUST DIE!



YOU THOUGHT IT WAS ENOUGH TO ENJOY DISAPPEAR--

--UNMINDFUL THAT I CAN TRACK A GRAIN OF SPACEDUST THROUGH THE ENDLESS COSMOS!



"TO ONE SUCH AS I-- I WAS CHILDISH ENOUGH TO FOLLOW A TRAIL OF-- BRIMSTONE!"



"AND THOUGH IT HAS BROUGHT ME TO THE MOST DIABOLICAL DOMAIN IN ALL THE WORLD--

"TO BRAVE A THOUSAND TIMES A THOUSAND SUCH PLACES OF THE DAMNED--FOR THE LIFE OF SHALLA-BAL!"



I HAVE FAR GREATER CAUSES TO DESPISE THAN I THOUGHT!

YOUR VERY GOODNESS FILLS ME WITH A LOATHING TOO GREAT TO ENDURE!

WHY DO YOU NOT CRINGE WHEN I APPROACH YOU?

YOU CAN DO NO MORE THAN SLAY ME!

AND DEATH HOLDS NO TERROR FOR THE SILVER SURFER!



BUT IT SHALL!

BEFORE THIS STARK CHARGE IS ENDED-- ON WHOM IT SHALL!

NOW, FOLLOW ME-- THAT YOU MAY LEARN--YOUR FATE!





THUS, WHEN
I ENCOUNTER
A FORCE FOR
GOOD--
RESOLUTE
AND
POWERFUL--

I HAVE
BUT
ONE
SINGLE
GOAL--

IT
MUST BE
DESTRUCTED!



YOU ARE
SUCH A
FORCE! BUT
I SEEK MORE
THAN YOUR
DESTRUCTION!

I MUST
HAVE YOU
IN
BONDAGE--
FOR ALL
ETERNITY!

BEFORE WE ARE
DONE--YOU
WILL SERVE
ME! YOU WILL
CALL MEPHISTO--
MASTER!

NEVER!!



BUT WAIT!
YOU KNOW
NOTHING OF
MY POWERS
OF
PERSUASION!

SEE
WHAT I
HAVE TO
OFFER
YOU--
SEE--ALL
THAT
SHALL BE
YOURS!

FROM
OUT OF
THE
SHADOWS--

A
BLIND-
ING
FLASH!



WITH LESS THEN
A GESTURE! WITH
BUT A RANDOM
THOUGHT!

BUT, NO MATTER!
IT IS AS REAL
AS THE AIR YOU
BREATHE!

AND--IT
SHALL ALL
BE--
YOURS!

TREASURE
BEYOND
CALCULATION!!
WEALTH SUCH
AS NO LIVING
MORTAL HAS EVER
POSSESSED!

YOURS!
YOURS!

PRICELESS
JEWELS
AND RARE
PRECIOUS
METALS!

YOU CALL
THAT
TREASURE?



YOU KNOW NOT WHAT
YOU SEE!

IN THIS
ONE UEN,
ALONE--GEMS
ENOUGH TO
RANDOM A
GALAXY!



YOU SPEAK OF A
PALTRY GALAXY--
TO ONE WHO HAS
TRAVERSED THE
COSMOS?

WHAT IS MORE WEALTH--

--TO THE
SILVER SURFER!



YOU DO NOT TEMPT
ME, YOU DO NOT
SHAME ME!

NOW! TAKE
ME TO
SHALLA
BELL!

THE
STRANGLE
OF COURSE--
THAT IS THE
ANSWER!

IT IS
SAFE THAT
YOU LOVE,
ALL
ELSE--

THUS, IT
FOLLOWS
THAT HER
BEAUTY
HAS WON
YOUR HEART!

SO--
THEREIN
MUST LIE
YOUR
WEAKNESS!



IF YOU ARE TRULY
APPRECIATIVE OF
REMAINING CHARMS--

THEN SEE--
SEE WHAT
MEPHISTO
CAN OFFER--!



NOT ONE--
NOT TWO--
BUT
THREE--

EASIER BY
FEAR THAN
ANY THE
MIND OF MAN
COULD DARE
IMAGINE!



YOU NEED NOT
MAKE A CHOICE!
ACCEPT THEM
ALL--IN PLACE
OF SHALLA
BELL!

FOR THE GENEROSITY
OF MEPHISTO IS
TRULY BEYOND
COMPARE!

I URGE
YOU--
HURRY!
ANSWER
NOT IN
HASTE!

NEXT WEEK: BATTLE IN THE DEPTHS OF HELL!



HULK TALK!

HULK TALK, MARVEL COMICS, 205-211 KENTISH TOWN ROAD,
LONDON NWS

Dear Stan and Dez,

I think Hulk Comic is brilliant, but why does Nick Fury have the most pages when Hulk could?

My favourite stories are Hulk, then Black Knight, then Ant-Man.

The Eternals are pretty good, but could be improved with more of Karkas.

Are you going to reveal Night-Raven's origin soon?

Stephen Dowell, Chelmsley Wood.

Nick Fury may have had more pages than Hulk once, or even twice, Stephen, but as you can now see, with the dynamic Defenders in our regular line-up, old green skin's getting the lion's share of the action. And there's more to come...

Dear Dez,

When I first saw Hulk Comic, I loathed it. It was the comic that would attract the millions of non-Marvelites who watched Hulk on TV.

The three to ten year olds must have been delighted (judging by the letters page) but the only fifteen-plus readers were apparently girls, boys who read comics for a good laugh (as with Batman), and complacent morons who have been reading your comics so long that they can't tell an excellent strip from an awful one. (And if that don't provoke a wild response, nuthin' will!).

Paul Neary — an excellent artist — turns out the worst covers I've ever seen. Although the artwork was good the stories inside were as bad as the covers (except Ant-Man which also had bad artwork, as well as bad stories).

Even the return to the old-style Hulk strips, the introduction of the Eternals and the promise of a Beast and a Silver Surfer series failed to make me a regular reader. But that has changed.

Your latest addition, the Defenders, is almost as good as the New X-Men — even better than Conan, in its own way.

The fact that you include this strip because it stars the Hulk doesn't really matter. What matters to me is that I'm going to have to buy this awful comic every week — I wouldn't miss the Defenders for anything!

Still, looking on the bright side, Fury's improved, the Captain Britain artwork is fantastic (even if the script is awful) and eight pages of Hulk and the Defenders is worth 10p.

Replace Fury and Ant-Man with Ghost

Rider and Captain Marvel, and improve the Captain Britain script, and you may just get some sensible older readers buying this mag.

Dave, Belvedere, Kent.

Rather than answer, as we're kinda biased, let's leave it to you, Marveldom Assembled, to tell us what you think of Dave's views.

Dear Dez,

Having been a Marvelite for over six years, I hate to say it's criticism time.

Not about any other titles, only Hulk Comic.

How can Hulk Comic hope to compete with Spider-Man Weekly? It has eight less pages, and look at the stories in the mag... they're not exactly the top of the Marvel tree now, are they?

Take a hint from an old Marvelite, Ant-Man should be the first to go.

The only two stories I really look forward to are Hulk and the Black Knight. Yes, I'm a Black Knight fan, too.

Please bring back Night-Raven, and tell me, is Dez Skinn your real name, Dez?

Mark Brown, Caister.

Well, Mark, even "old Marvelites" like you can be wrong sometimes. Ant-Man, along with Hulk and the Black Knight has been one of the top three strips in popularity since we first launched Hulk Comic last March. Of course, they all have the Silver Surfer and the Defenders to contend with now, so only time will tell.

We know we've got less pages in Hulk than in Spider-Man, that's how come we've kept the price down to 10p. But if you'd all prefer 32 pages for 12p, let us know...

As for my real name, it's The Amazing Editorman, Dez Skinn's my secret identity!

Dear Dez,

Roger Kirman's letter in Hulk Comic 35 raises a number of interesting points.

The Black Knight strip has problems mostly in accuracy and continuity from the American Marvel strips. The whole business of Modred the Mystic and Modred the Evil should have been cleared up at the start of the story. Perhaps the matter could be settled in a 'showdown' between the two. Modred the Mystic winning, naturally.

If I have my Arthurian legends right, isn't Arthur supposed to rise to his country's

needs in a time of crisis? Perhaps the whole story could end in the rebirth of Arthur and Camelot.

If the strip is handled correctly, it could possibly become the best British strip since the original Conan Dare, but the mix-ups will have to be cleared up.

Oh, and how about clearing up the Black Knight's transformation into flesh and blood again, from the stone statue he was?

Unlike Roger Kirman, I do not consider the strip beyond help, it just needs a little research and lots of patience from us, the readers.

By the way, Black Knight seems to be the only strip that attracts well thought-out and intelligent letters, how strange!

Andrew Jackson, Ossett, W. Yorks.

Believe us, Andrew, a LOT of research has gone into the Black Knight strip. Everything has been figured out, absolutely everything.

BUT, the first priority we have is producing interesting material for the majority of our readers, rather than explaining away details which will be understood by only a small, loyal minority. To introduce all the previous plotlines and characters to a strip which is aiming at a primarily new audience would only confuse unnecessarily.

However, now everyone's caught up with the main plot, we are starting to bit-by-bit explain all the details away.

Because of unfortunate circumstances which prevented — temporarily — the continuation of the main Otherworld plot, we told the origins of both Black Knight and Captain Britain for newcomers.

The two Modreds complication has been plotted out already. How Black Knight got back into the 20th Century has been left to our American cousins, and will be detailed in an upcoming Marvel Two-In-One which will lead directly (Marvel-time) into the story which started off in Hulk Comic issue one.

As for Arthur. Yes, he is supposed to rise to his country's need in times of crisis, as the once and future king. We're not going to give the entire quest away right now, but let's just say that you may have hit on something there!

By the way, Black Knight seems to be the only strip that receives such long replies in this letter column. How strange!

... Dez Skinn/Editor

THE RED RAJAH VENTS HIS WRATH ON...

THE DEFENDERS

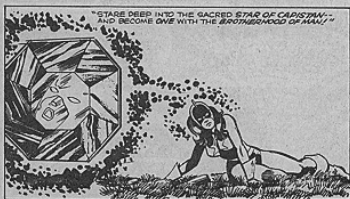


YOUR BLIND PREJUDICE IS UNFORTUNATE. THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT IN MY POWER.



THEY ARE MERELY IN HARMONY WITH MY WISHES--AS YOU SHALL SOON BE!









NEXT WEEK > DEFENDER VS. DEFENDER!

DOCTOR WHO WEEKLY NUMBER 11



THE STORY OF THE SILURIAN MONSTERS!

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